

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 12 (canceled)

Claim 13. (currently amended) A procedure for the protection of computer software and/or computer readable data against unauthorized use, including the steps of:

encoding of software or data by a licenser dependent on license parameters containing a Firm Code (FC) assigned to said licenser and a User Code (UC) allocated by said licenser of the software or the data, which together initiate the encoding;

storing the encoded software or data on a data medium of a licensee;

sending an encoded transmission of the license parameters from said licenser to said licensee;

storing the license parameters in a nonvolatile memory of said licensee;

automatically decoding the software or data by means of a decoder dependent on the storage license parameters during the use of the software or data by said licensee wherein:

encoding of software or data is initialized dependent on a secret Firm Key (FK) freely selected by said licenser;

the encoding of the transmission of the license parameters occurs dependent on a secret Private Serial Key (SK) generated at said licensee; and

the decoding of the software or data is initialized dependent on the Firm Key (FK) selected by said licensor.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A procedure in accordance with Claim 13, wherein:

the secret Private Serial Key (SK) is produced randomly at said licensee without ~~said licensee[[,]] said licensor[[,]] or anyone else~~ a person being able to influence ~~that~~ such production.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 13, wherein:

the signature of the transmission of the license parameters from said licensor to said licensee occurs dependent on a unique Serial Number (SN) firmly assigned to said licensee.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 13 wherein:

said licensor is assigned a secret Firm Common Key (FCK), which is produced from a Common Key (CK) through encoding dependent on the Firm Code (FC) of said licensor; and

the installation, changing, or deletion of the license parameters occurs dependent on the Firm Common Key (FCK).

17. A procedure in accordance with Claim 13 wherein:  
the storage of the license parameters occurs within a protective device developed as a hardware supplement.

Claim 18. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 17 wherein:

the automatic decoding of the protected software or data occurs by means of an encoder and decoder arranged within the protective device.

Claim 19. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 17 wherein:

the protective device contains a limiter secure against manipulation that limits the time period and/or the number of decodings of the protected software or data.

Claim 20. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 17 wherein:

a secret Private Box Key (BK) determined by a producer is stored in the protective device; and

the encoding of the transmission of license parameters between said licenser and the licensee occurs dependent on this Private Box Key (BK).

Claim 21. (currently amended) A protective device for use in a procedure in accordance with Claim 13, comprising:

an interface for connection with a computer of said licensee;

a microprocessor;

a nonvolatile memory in which the license parameters are stored; and

an encoder and decoder connected to said interface for the automatic decoding of the software or data dependent on the stored license parameters; and

an installation for the production of a random secret Private Serial Key (SK) for the encoding of the transmission of the license parameters between said licensor and said licensee.

Claim 22. (previously presented) A protective device in accordance with Claim 21, wherein:

the memory includes several memory areas for the storage of license parameters of different licensors.

Claim 23. (previously presented) A protective device in accordance with Claim 21 wherein:

the microprocessor, the memory, the encoder, decoder, and the installation for the production of the Private Serial Key (SK) are developed on a single integrated semiconductor circuit (ASIC).

Claim 24. (previously presented) A protective device in accordance with Claim 21 including:

a limiter secure from manipulation that limits the time period and/or the number of decodings of the protected software or data.

Claim 25. (previously presented) A procedure for the protection of computer software and/or computer readable data against unauthorized use, including the steps of:

encoding of software or data by a licensor dependent on license parameters containing a Firm Code (FC) assigned to said licensor and a User Code (UC) allocated by said licensor of the software or the data, which together initiate the encoding;

storing the encoded software or data on a data medium of a licensee;

sending an encoded transmission of the license parameters from said licensor to said licensee;

automatically decoding the software or data by means of a decoder dependent on the license parameters during the use of the software or data by said licensee;

initializing encoding of software or data dependent on a secret Firm Key (FK) freely selected by said licensor;

encoding of the transmission of the license parameters dependent on a secret Private Serial Key (SK);

initializing decoding of the software or data dependent on the Firm Key (FK) selected by said licensor;

producing the secret Private Serial Key (SK) randomly at said licensee; and

storing the license parameters within a memory of a protective device.

Claim 26. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 25, wherein:

the signature of the transmission of the license parameters from said licensor to said licensee occurs dependent on a unique Serial Number (SN) firmly assigned to said licensee.

Claim 27. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 25 wherein:

said licensor is assigned a secret Firm Common Key (FCK), which is produced from a Common Key (CK) through encoding dependent on the Firm Code (FC) of said licensor; and

the installation, changing, or deletion of the license parameters occurs dependent on the Firm Common Key (FCK).

Claim 28. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 25 wherein:

the automatic decoding of the protected software or data occurs by means of an encoder and decoder arranged within the protective device.

Claim 29. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 25 wherein:

the protective device contains a limiter secure against manipulation that limits the time period and/or the number of decodings of the protected software or data.

Claim 30. (previously presented) A procedure in accordance with Claim 25 wherein:

a secret Private Box Key (BK) determined by a producer is stored in the protective device; and

the encoding of the transmission of license parameters between said licensor and the licensee occurs dependent on this Private Box Key (BK).

Claim 31. (currently amended) A protective device for use in a procedure which includes encoding of software or data by a licensor dependent on license parameters containing a Firm Code (FC) assigned to said licensor and a User Code (UC) allocated by said licensor of the software or the data, which together initiate the encoding;

storing the encoded software or data on a data medium of a licensee;

sending an encoded transmission of the license parameters from said licensor to said licensee;

automatically decoding the software or data by means of a decoder dependent on the license parameters during the use of the software or data by said licensee;

initializing encoding of software or data dependent on a secret Firm Key (FK) freely selected by said licensor;

encoding the transmission of the license parameters dependent on a secret Private Serial Key (SK); and

initializing the decoding of the software or data dependent on the Firm Key (FK) selected by said licensor, said protective device comprising:

an interface for connection with a computer of said licensee;

a microprocessor;

a nonvolatile memory in which the license parameters are stored;

an encoder and decoder connected to said interface for the automatic decoding of the software or data dependent on the stored license parameters; and

an installation for the production of a random secret Private Serial Key (SK) for the encoding of the transmission of the license parameters between said licensor and said licensee.

Claim 32. (previously presented) A protective device in accordance with Claim 31, wherein:

the memory includes several memory areas for the storage of license parameters of different licensors.

Claim 33. (previously presented) A protective device in accordance with Claim 31 wherein:

the microprocessor, the memory, the encoder, decoder, and the installation for the production of the Private Serial Key (SK) are developed on a single integrated semiconductor circuit (ASIC).

Claim 34. (previously presented) A protective device in accordance with Claim 31 including:

a limiter secure from manipulation that limits the time period and/or the number of decodings of the protected software or data.